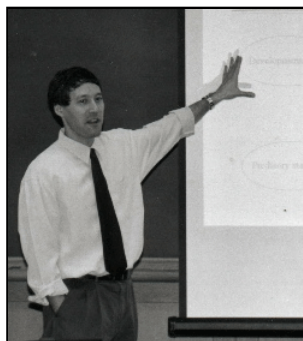




## David Kang

**David Kang**  
Dartmouth University



### "China Reassures Asia: Rising Power, Offshore Balancers, and Hierarchy"

**Friday, April 8, 2005  
12:00 p.m.  
Mershon Center  
Room 120**

*Lunch will be served to those who RSVP to [Ann Powers](#) no later than Wednesday, April 6, 2005.*

Why has China's continued rise not led to a security dilemma with the rest of East Asia? Why does China communicate restraint, and more importantly, why do the East Asian states believe it? Although realpolitik pessimists see China's rise as inherently destabilizing, there is little evidence that the system is devolving into balancing. Institutions are also weak in East Asia, and few believe that economic interdependence by itself will solve the security dilemma. The answer is also not the presence of the United States as an offshore balancer. Only Taiwan -- and perhaps Japan -- clearly rely on a U.S. security umbrella to balance Chinese power. I argue that China's expected emergence as the most powerful state in Asia has been accompanied with more stability than pessimists believed because of a social understanding about China's role in East Asia. On the one hand, China has provided credible information about its capabilities and intentions to its neighbors. On the other hand, East Asian states actually believe Chinese claims, and hence do not fear its rise as much as some scholars have predicted. This shared understanding about China's preferences and limited aims short-circuits the security dilemma.

David Kang is Associate Professor of Government, and Adjunct Associate Professor and Research Director at the Center for International Business at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. He has scholarly interests in both business-government relations and international relations, with a focus on Asia. At Tuck he teaches a course on doing business in Asia, and also manages teams of MBAs in the Tuck Global Consultancy Program that conduct in-country consulting projects for multinational companies in Asia.

Kang's book, *Crony Capitalism: Corruption and Development in South Korea and the Philippines* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), was named by Choice as one of the 2003 "Outstanding Academic Titles". He is also author of *Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies* (co-authored with Victor Cha) (Columbia University Press, 2003). He has published scholarly articles in journals such as *International Organization*, *International Security*, *Comparative Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *World Development*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Orbis*, and *Security Studies*. He has also appeared on The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, ABC News, CNN's "Moneyline with Lou Dobbs," Fox News, the CNN financial news programs "Street Sweep," and "Money and Markets," and the BBC World News Service, as well as numerous radio programs. Kang has

also written opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chosun Ilbo* (Korea), and *Jungang Ilbo* (Korea). Kang is a member of the editorial boards of *Political Science Quarterly*, *IRI Review*, *Business and Politics* and the *Journal of International Business Education*.

Professor Kang regularly consults for U.S. and Asian firms across the Pacific. He also has worked with various government agencies on issues of Asian international economics and politics. Professor Kang has been a visiting professor at Yale University, Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, Korea University in Seoul, and U.C. San Diego. He received an A.B. with honors from Stanford University (1988) and his Ph.D. from Berkeley (1995).